

Testimony of

Elizabeth Scott

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Before the

Education Committee

March 15, 2023

Good afternoon, Senator McCrory, Representative Currey, Senator Berthel, Representative McCarty, and members of the Education Committee.

I testify today in support of House Bill 6884. This bill takes important steps toward addressing the educator shortage in Connecticut, showing educators that theirs is a respected profession, and ensuring that our classrooms and schools can provide the best possible education for our students.

I am in favor of changing the kindergarten start age date to Sept. 1st. So many families struggle with the decision of whether or not to send their 'fall' birthday children to kindergarten or keep them in preschool. Preschool is an expense while kindergarten is not so many families opt to send their children on whether they are developmentally ready or not. Kindergarten is a challenge for many children who are not ready. It should be exciting, not stressful! I wish the date for the kindergarten cut off was the same across the country. It would make that decision so much easier for families. Being a preschool special education teacher, I am all for play based learning. So many skills can be taught through this - sharing, waiting, interacting with others, conversing with others, compromising, listening as well as many early readiness skills. **I worked through the pandemic and am considering retiring within the next two years. If I am reading the part of the bill that addresses the COVID Benefit Enhancement correctly, it seems as though I would NOT benefit from any type of benefit multiplier. ANY teacher who worked through the pandemic should be included in this regardless of when they retire. I would appreciate clarification on this.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

